

Homework Guidelines

Homework is the bridge in the learning process between school and home. It can be a powerful tool to help parents become more involved in their child's learning and it is essential to have clear guidelines to create consistency throughout the school and avoid confusion and frustration.

Guiding principles

1. **Homework should support learning** and reinforce what is happening in the classroom but should not be too onerous a task for the people involved.
2. **Students own their homework.** Students are the people who do the homework since they are the learners in this process and teachers will benefit from knowing where the strengths and weaknesses are in each student. Parents are encouraged to be involved, but we request the work is done by the student.
3. **Homework must be balanced** against all of the other factors affecting a student's life outside the school. Balance is essential. There should not be a conflict between the demands of homework and the social, emotional and physical aspects of the students' personal and family lives.

Content of homework

We aim to instil positive work habits and promote autonomous, self-directed learning. It is also an opportunity for families to understand and be more involved in their child's learning.

The work set by the teacher could be:

- Reading
- Completion of classwork
- Continuation of project work
- The reinforcement of concepts through reading and activities.
- Practice of skills that have already been taught.
- An extension of research taught and begun in the classroom.
- Preparation or research for a new lesson.
- In a flipped classroom, students study or research a new topic and the consolidation is done in the classroom.

Student expectations

When a teacher assigns homework, the student is expected to:

- Record the information accurately.
- Complete the work to the best of their ability.
- Hand in the homework on time.
- Inform the teacher of any factor that has prevented the homework being done.
- Discuss with the teacher ahead of time, if it is known that something will prevent the homework being done.

- Discuss with the teacher if something prevented the homework being done or if homework is missed due to sudden excused absence.

Teacher expectations

When teachers assign homework, they are expected to:

- Set the homework in a way that all students understand what is expected of them.
- Allow time for students to record the assigned homework in their notebooks.
- Monitor student completion of homework.
- Mark and return homework quickly when it applies.
- Contact the parents if homework is not being done, being done poorly, or it is suspected that someone is doing the homework for the student.

Parent expectations

Parents are expected to:

- Allow time for the student to do their homework.
- Set up an environment at home conducive to doing homework.
- Support their child by checking what work they have to do
- Write a note if your child is unable to complete homework due to family obligations or other factors.
- Support their child in providing resources and advice if needed.

Time allocation for homework

Knowledge base, skill level, language level and the number of disruptions will impact the time required to complete homework. We believe in creating the right balance of homework and home life. It is important for children to be children and have time to spend with family and friends. It is important to keep in mind that students often engage in project based learning and this requires work to be done at home. Students will need to have good time management skills to avoid spending too long completing work in one day.

The following are approximations:

Grade	Suggested time (Monday-Thursday)
9 - 12	60-80 minutes
7 - 8	40-60 minutes
5 - 6	30-40 minutes
3 - 4	20-30 minutes
1 - 2	10-20 minutes

*Note that teachers could give short chunks of homework at about 20 minutes per day or a longer assignment / project to complete throughout the week.

Schedule

The homework schedule is at the discretion of the subject teachers. There can be a weekly schedule or homework can be given when the need arises during the week. This allows for more flexibility and a more creative approach to homework. Either way, teachers will communicate and make sure homework is balanced and does not overload students on a particular day. We will also avoid giving homework over the weekend, as this time could be spent with family and friends and pursuing interests and participating in out of school activities. There may, however, be rare exceptions, for example when a student is working on a book report or working on a project over a period of time. It is up to the student to be aware of their homework and submission dates. We encourage parents to check with their children until their child has developed the organisational skills required to be independent enough to take full responsibility for their homework and assignments.

Reading

In addition to homework being set, we expect every student to read at home. Reading can take your imagination to places it has never been before. It can teach and inform, as well as inspire and motivate. Reading also helps in all other areas of academic studies. Educational researchers have found that there is a strong correlation between reading and academic success. Most importantly, it can be a lot of fun!